

# Legislative Update 6/15/2021

Tim O'Brien, Director – Economic Development & External Relations

# State Legislative Update



# 2021 Nebraska Legislative Calendar

## Nebraska's 107th Legislature

- January 6<sup>th</sup> – Legislature convened at 10 am
- January 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day of bill introduction
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – All day public hearings begin
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Date to complete committee hearings, except Judiciary Committee on introduced bills
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for Speaker priority requests
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for designation of Committee and Senator priority bills (extended)
- March 12<sup>th</sup> - Judiciary Committee hearings to be completed
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Full-day debate
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – Sine die

# 2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 83 Flood	Change the Open Meetings Act to provide for virtual conferencing
Support	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, 1/27/21 Hearing held OPPD submitted a letter in support, Placed on General File with AM127, 3/10/21 Government, Military and Veterans Affairs priority bill, 3/17/21 Advanced to Select File, 4/15/21 Passed on Final Reading 43-0-6 with Emergency Clause. 4/21/21 Signed by Governor.</i>
LB 84 Bostelman	Redefine terms relating to tax incentive performance audits and the Imagine Nebraska Act
Support	<i>1/7/21 Introduced, 1/11/21 Referred to Revenue Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held, OPPD submitted a letter in support, 3/10/21 Placed on General File, 3/17/21 Speaker priority bill, 4/27/21 Advanced to Select File. 5/20/21 Passed on Final Reading 47-0-2. 5/25/21 Signed by Governor.</i>
LB 139 Briese	Adopt the COVID-19 Liability Protection Act
Neutral	<i>1/8/21 Introduced, 1/12/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 2/18/21 Hearing held, 3/11/21 Slama priority bill. 5/10/21 Placed on General File with AM1293. 5/18/21 Advanced to Select File, 5/18/21 Advanced to Final Reading, 5/20/21 Passed on Final Reading with e clause 41-1-7. 5/25/21 Signed by Governor. Provisions/portions of LB 53 amended into LB 139 by AM1293.</i>

# 2021 Legislation – Priority Status

Bill & Current Status	Summary
LB 306 Brandt	Provide eligibility requirements for the low-income home energy assistance program
Support	<i>1/12/21 Introduced, 1/14/21 Referred to Health and Human Service Committee, 1/29/21 Hearing held, OPPD testified in support, 3/9/21 Placed on General file, 3/12/21 Brandt priority bill, 4/29/21 Advanced to Select File, 5/18/21 Advanced to Final Reading, 5/20/21 Passed on Final Reading with E clause 38-6-5. 5/25/21 Returned by Governor, 5/26/21 Passed notwithstanding objections by Governor 32-15-2.</i>
LB 449 Wishart	Appropriate funds to the Department of Environment and Energy
Support	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Appropriations Committee, 2/26/21 Hearing held, 4/9/21 Amended into LB380 budget bill, 4/1/21 LB 380 Placed on General File with AM393, 4/12/21 Advanced to Select File with ER56, 4/14/21 Advanced to Final Reading, 4/20/21 Passed on Final Reading with Emergency Clause, 4/26/21 Signed by Governor</i>
LB 474 Wishart	Adopt the Medicinal Cannabis Act
Neutral	<i>1/15/21 Introduced, 1/20/21 Referred to Judiciary Committee, 3/10/21 Hearing scheduled, 3/12/21 Wishart priority bill, 3/31/21 Placed on General File with AM824, 5/12/21 Failed to advance.</i>

# Other Bills of Interest

- LB 156 - Adopt the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act
  - 5/24/21 Signed by Governor
- LB 285 – Change provisions relating to elections conducted pursuant to the Election Act
  - 5/26/21 Signed by Governor
- LB 366 – Change the Nebraska Advantage Microenterprise Tax Credit Act
  - 5/25/21 Signed by Governor
- LB 388 - Adopt the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act
  - 5/26/21 Signed by Governor
- LB 406 – Create the Lower Platte River Infrastructure Task Force and provide funding
  - 5/25/21 Signed by Governor

# Other Bills of Interest

- LB 460 – Authorize leasing of dark fiber and eliminate certain powers of the Public Service Commission
  - Held in Committee
- LB 512 – Adopt the Critical Infrastructure Utility Worker Protection Act
  - Held in Committee
- LB 650 - Adopt the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act
  - 5/24/21 Signed by Governor

# 2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 23 Erdman	Interim study to examine the progress of natural resources districts in fulfilling their originally intended purpose. Includes a study of flood control
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 34 Slama	Interim study to examine the structure and funding of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. OPPD has received \$600,000 for battery storage, butterfly and EV charging station grants over the years
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 83 M. Hansen	Interim study to examine the gubernatorial appointment process of members to boards, commissions and similar entities
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Executive Board</i>
LR 102 Wishart	Provide the Legislature take steps to combat the climate and ecological crisis
	<i>4/22/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 106 Kolterman	Interim Study to monitor underfunded defined benefit plans administered by political subdivisions as required by 13-2402.
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee</i>

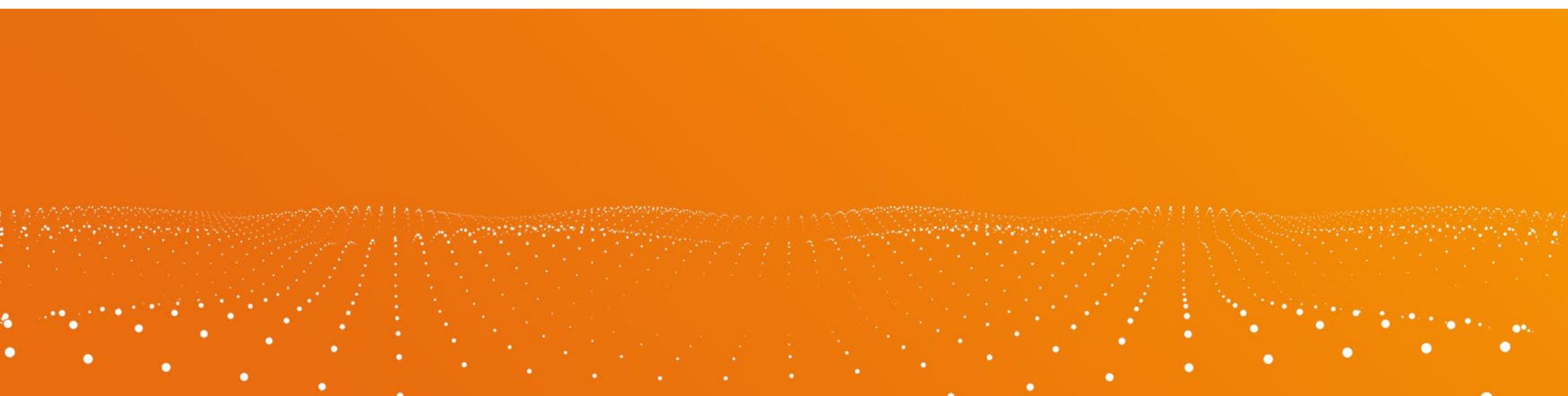
# 2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 136 Brewer	Interim Study to examine and evaluate the causes, costs, and impacts of rolling electrical power outages during the extreme weather events of February 2021
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>
LR 147 J. Cavanaugh	Interim study to examine the transfer of state-owned property to local political subdivisions
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</i>
LR 193 De Boer	Interim study to examine broadband mapping and broadband speed testing in Nebraska
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunications Committee</i>
LR 199 Slama	Interim study to examine the creation of rural economic development program
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee</i>
LR 202 HHS Committee	Interim study to examine federal legislation regarding COVID-19 pandemic assistance
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to HHS Committee</i>

# 2021 Legislative Resolutions - Interim Studies

LR & Current Status	Summary
LR 211 Lowe	Interim study to examine issues related to adopting construction codes
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Urban Affairs Committee</i>
LR 234 Friesen	Interim study to examine issues related to the regulation and taxation of electric vehicles
	<i>5/20/21 Referred to Transportation and Telecommunication Committee</i>
LR 246 NR Committee	Interim study to examine issues within the jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee
	<i>5/26/21 Referred to Natural Resources Committee</i>

# Federal Legislative Update



# Federal Update

- Infrastructure package continues to be the major focus
  - President Biden's \$2.3 trillion, 8 year infrastructure package reduced to \$1.7 trillion. GOP's most recent \$928 billion counterproposal
  - House Energy & Commerce Committee's Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America Act (H.R. 1848 LIFT America Act) introduced March 11<sup>th</sup>
- Other major bills of interest:
  - H.R. 848, the GREEN Act (renewable energy tax incentives)
  - H.R. 1512, the CLEAN Future Act (Clean Energy Standard) – the basis for the House Climate Package
- 5,607 bills introduced in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress as of June 3rd
- Reconciliation being discussed as an option to pass major legislation
- 22 of 23 Cabinet nominees confirmed. Hearings begin for Undersecretaries and other appointed positions